

AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 17 as follows:

--The present invention was devised on the basis of this finding. According to the invention, a hygroscopic compound or a rare earth compound is supplied ~~[[onto]]~~ in at least the ~~[[surface]]~~ upper portion of a resist film, so that the hygroscopic compound or the rare earth compound can make atmospheric vapor be incorporated into the surface of the resist film, and the invention is specifically practiced as follows:--